titrated with base; which precursor groups are converted to the functional groups;

wherein at least one of the ethylenically unsaturated monomers is according to the formula:

$(R^3)(R^2)C=C(R^1)-X-Y$

wherein:

Y is $-C(O)OR^4$; $-O-S(O_2)OR^4$; $-S(O_2)OR^4$; or $-S(O)OR^4$; wherein R^4 is hydrogen or a cleavage permitting group;

X is a direct bond; a straight or branched alkylene group having one to six carbon atoms, one or more of which can be replaced by O, S, or N heteroatoms, provided that there is no heteroatom in a position α or β to Y; phenylene; a five or six membered heteroarylene having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, and N, provided that neither Y or $(R^3)(R^2)C=C(R^1)-$ is bonded to a heteroatom; and

R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from, hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, carboxy, halogen, cyano, isocyanato, C_1-C_6 hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, C_1-C_6 haloalkyl, C_1-C_6 cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6 carboxyalkyl, aryl, hydroxyaryl, haloaryl, cyanoaryl, C_1-C_6 alkoxyaryl, carboxyaryl, nitroaryl, or a group –X-Y; wherein C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_1-C_6 alkoxy groups are either linear or branched and up to Q-2 carbon atoms of any C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, wherein Q is the total number of ring carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl group, are independently replaced with O, S, or N heteroatoms; with the proviso that neither doubly-bonded caron atom is directly bonded to O or S; and wherein aryl is phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl having up to three heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N.

2. (Previously amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the linking moiety is formed by copolymerization of an ethylenically unsaturated linking agent, and the mole fraction of ethylenic double bonds in the combination from which the polyanionic polymer is made that is contributed by the ethylenically unsaturated linking agent is 0.02 or less.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, comprising a microgel formed of the polyanionic polymer.